

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS, August 13.

One of the earliest interruptions of the Congress had for author M. Baudry d'Asson, a royalist, who demanded, "What about standing drinks?" As he was left to pause for a reply he withdrew with disgust. However, as he is the first sportsman in France, he may have gone to where his heart ever was—in the highlands chasing the deer. But his motion was not met by the "question préalable," which in parliamentary language means applying the extinguisher. The delay must have been certainly due to negotiations with the Minister of Finance to see if the deficit of the budget would be much augmented by supplying refreshments gratis to the Congressmen. And M. Ferry has been able to supply—France is ever rich enough to pay for her glory—200 bottles of beer (English, not German) and 40 quarts of brandy daily, besides placing blocks of ice, like little ice-bergs, in the Assemblyroom and corridors. "Brandy for heroes!" Burke exclaimed.

Unintentionally this extensive liquoring up may explain the many "spliffs" and "smashes" the eyes of all Europe have had to witness at Versailles. By now the Congress is over, and so there is one political nuisance less in France. If the result has not made the Republic more lovable, it has abolished public prayers for that regime, so love's labor is not viewed as altogether lost. If the Republic has not been made beautiful forever, it has been decreed immortal. France changes masters as quickly as snakes change their skin.

"And Louis is rolled out on castors, while Boney's borne on shoulders in."

The Senate that was destined to be emasculated or suppressed, has come out of the fiery furnace fortified. But it will not be surprising if a tub be thrown to the whale in the form of a short bill to expel all the Orleanist princes. That might restore harmony to the happy Republican family, the radical members of which have so much allowed their angry passions to rise. There will apparently be no necessity to derange M. de Freycinet's liver by asking him to form a Cabinet. Jules Ferry has done wonderfully well, all things considered. Be sure for the remainder of his natural political life, he will never again play at Congress.

France does not see clear as to what she ought to do to cover her check at the Conference. She is conscious of having made a mess there; that M. Waddington's postscript irritability has put England on her high horse; and his conduct is severely commented on for asserting all difficulties between France and England having been lovingly removed, the Conference was a certain success. Having neither rudder nor compass for the Egyptian question, the journals naturally pitch into England. Even with the French that trotting out of the old properties is beginning to tire. *Toujours perdrix*. Then, like the terrible curse pronounced on the Rheims jackdaw, the French commence to note the English are not a whit the worse for all the diatribes, which neither tell on the sweet simplicity of the Three-percents, nor affect the revenue returns. It appears the most tremendous difficulties await England in Egypt; for no consideration would the French like to be in her position, etc. That France ought to be thankful to be free of all dual and multiple controls—in fact, to organize a Paray-le-monial pilgrimage in honor of M. Waddington's fiasco. The same terrors were cracked up when Arabi was under arms. The serious matter for England is to take the tide in the Egyptian affairs now at the flood, and that will lead on to fortune for all concerned. A sure hand at the helm; a resolve to permit no nation to hamper her movements; to be just and fear not; to be true to herself, and Egypt will quickly blossom like the rose. Reply to all the envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness by successes; sponge out past timidities, and turn over a new leaf. Between France and China we have neither a good war nor a bad peace. The times have been that when the brains were out the man would die; the time was when even the homoeopathic bombardment of one state by

another would be viewed as very like war. It seems we have changed all that. It is not agreeable for France to be so eccentrically at peace with China, with Madagascar to wind up, and Tonquin to organize. The latter is commenced; one French merchant's arrival is announced, and tar barrels have been burned in his honor. It must not be forgotten that *ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte*. The longer China holds out, be her case right or wrong, the heavier will be the little bill she will have to pay. France contemplated tempting the Japanese for an ally with the island of Formosa; but finding the value of this Oriental pearl, they seem disposed to keep the pawn as a permanent souvenir, while it is on the cards to "protect" Amoy and relinquish Foo-chow. With Amoy the French would have their Hongkong. All the schemes of Oriental grandeur for France is shaded by the discovery that England, at Perim, commands the Red Sea—the Egyptian Bosphorus; and so France is in the position of the owner of an excellent property, the entrance to which is at the mercy of, or controlled by a rival.

After all I think the French detest the Germans more than the English, despite the awful number of jilting the latter is accused of, towards her true love, France, who proved that by sacrificing herself in the Crimea, China and elsewhere, for the beautiful eyes of John Bull. If Bismarck really be honorable in his intentions towards France, let him prove it by handing back Alsace, or getting up a conference to expel England from the Red Sea—Egypt included. Faust must at least present Marguerite with some jewels, even were the gems of Mephistophilean origin. If not, France will take prudent care in reference to Mr. Bull *que l'on revient toujours a ses premiers amours*. If M. Bismarck's new departure has no other end than to hiss England and France on to fight, to secure peace, plenty and prosperity for Germany, he is very much mistaken. It would not be amiss for England to give the Chancellor, a Roland, for his Conference Oliver, and apply a douche to his feverish anxiety about the welfare of Egypt. Achilles was peculiarly armor-plated, but his mamma neglected his heel.

At Toulon the cholera deaths have sunk down to zero, so the force of improvement can no further go. In the other districts the disease displays the usual splutterings indicative of the departure of the unwelcome visitor. After all the sense and nonsense that has been indulged in respecting the cholera, respecting the microbes, as numerous as the seed of Abramam and as varied as the quarterings of the escutcheon of a German baron, respecting preventatives and perfect cures, this moral remains, and we ought to stick a pin in it, that the cholera has alone found its natural habitat in dens of filth and pollution; that cleanliness is its natural enemy, and that sobriety, courage and robust health are the natural preventatives against cholera, as against every plague.

Senator Jules Simon has returned to the arena of journalism. He avows he is on the losing side of republicanism. Forty years ago, when he first dipped his fingers in printer's ink, France, that is to say Paris, had only five journals. These had very few subscribers, and no single copies were ever sold. But then, constant readers and original subscribers looked up to their journal as disciples to a master or chief. It was a case of the *moutons de Panurge*, pure and simple. With an extension of the franchise came a demand for more and cheaper newspapers. It was a quarrel over the reduction in price of a journal to three sous a number that De Girardin, a flighty popular journalist, all nerves and feeling, with flashes of talent, claiming to be the high priest of logic, and remaining the most illogical of individuals, while a shrewd business man, was led to shooting of Armand Carrel in a duel. Then a newspaper meant a party. To-day a newspaper is merely the organ of a bank, created to launch some shady speculation, and release politics from the bait, adapted to the largest number of *gogos*. This will explain how France victimized herself at the Conference in the interests of the bankers, whose mattresses are said to be composed of Egyptian bonds. Commanding the journals, and so able to

howl on, the Government had to join in the cry, for it is a proverb: "At the police station, when policeman laughs, all laugh."

Jules Simon says that the competition is so great among the large, or three-sous journals, that to live, they have all had to create a little journal at one sous—a sort of tender to the big ships. But he has forgotten to add, that even now, the little journals have been also forced to bring out weekly literary supplements at one sous. Senator Simon does not allude to the real evil of French journalism; the fear to tell the public anything that would wound its feelings or hurt its vanity, even though the facts were truth itself. It is by working up the Old Adam of the French character, by ministering to its prejudices, by representing how all nations are jealous of France, etc., etc., that the papers sell. Perhaps, after all, that's their end—like razors.

The weather is so hot by night as well as by day that many must be mentally discussing the question: "Is life worth living for?" Some bales of cotton and empty wine barrels lying on the goods quays of the city have disappeared by spontaneous combustion. Despite Professor Tyndall, many free-thinkers pray for rain, an hope it may come on the lines of the Neachian deluge, the windows of heaven open forty days and nights. The drought is such that the supply of vegetables at the central markets is falling short. Fine prospect for the canned vegetable fabricants. Men reap the corn now, as the Buffalo girls dance "by the light of the moon." In Chicago a pig, is said, can even be put in a machine alive, and be turned out in a few hours under the form of sausages. Corn can be cut; threshed, winnowed, and sacked on the field; the progress might be extended, as the grain, being next to kiln-dried, could be ground, sifted into flour, and then as fresh morning rolls turned out. One misery, so small as to be non-existing, we have very few flies this summer. Perhaps they have retired before the microbes.

Next to the inquiry—do vegetables take into their system microbes from the manures on which they feed, and so pass them on to us? the next scientific matter of interest is: "Can cats see themselves in a looking-glass?" Prince Kropotkin affirms he has for cell-companion a kitten which is as great a coquette before a hand-glass as a maiden in her teens. The Prince's puss is fond of Gounod's music, preferring the Jewel Song in "Faust." It is not very long since the police made a razzia of a score of loafers and thieves, who, like Bill Sykes, had all their bulldogs. The latter, according to "well-informed journal," joined the police, and attacked their owners. Odd that the dogs side with law and order, and that anarchists do not.

The most curious fact about Annamite systems is, that everywhere there are pagodas, but nowhere religious ceremonies or priests. In their houses, the ladies have private altars, on which they deposit flowers to Buddha; they also place there all their fine bonnets, shoes, and dresses, which act like good luck, and speedily bring new patterns. Western ladies will please note. When a Frenchman gallops through a town, the inhabitants run and hide. Indeed, in more advanced cities, a John Gilpin on horseback would soon clear the streets.

George Sand has her marble statue in a square named after her, in the village of Lachatre. She is buried in her own garden at Nohaut. M. de Lesseps, whose chateau is close by, presided at the inauguration. He stated that one of his ten children is named after one of the heroines, Solange, of her novels. Arsene Houssaye said had she been elected to the Academy, before ten years all the "Immortals" would be women. Dumas fils has also maintained, were the fair sex eligible as deputies, in a short time only women would be returned to Parliament. Many of the eccentricities of Madame Dudeant's character were inherited from her ancestor, Marshal Saxe. She did not compose books; she only "spoke with her pen." After making jam, executing needlework, entertaining her guests, &c., when all the house was still, she commenced writing at 1 o'clock in the morning till 6.

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